

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2005. Currently, claims 10, 14-17, 22, 24-26, 30, 31, 41, 43, 48-51, 68, 71, 72, 75 and 77 are allowed, claims 1, 2, 6, 52, 80 and 58 are rejected, and claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-12, 56, 62 and 81 are objected to. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 52 and 58 and cancelled claim 4. Reconsideration of claims 1-9, 11-12, 14-17, 22, 24-26, 30, 31, 41, 43, 48-51, 56, 62, 68, 71, 72, 75, 77 and 81 is requested.

ARGUMENT

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Allowed Claims

Examiner allowed 10, 14-17, 22, 24-26, 30, 31, 43, 48-51, 68, 71, 72, 75 and 77.

Claims Objected to, but with Allowable Matter

Examiner objected to claims 3-4, 7-9, 11-12, 56, 62 and 81, but indicated the claims contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 52 and 58 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Applicant asserts that claims 1, 3, 52 and 58 should be in condition for allowance. Claim 4 has been cancelled, and claims 5, 7 and 8 were amended to depend on claim 1. Dependent claims 5, 7-9, 11-12, 56, 62 and 81 ultimately depend from one of claims 1, 3, 52 and 58, and should be patentable for the same reasons.

Amendments to the claims were done to expedite prosecution for the application. Applicant reserves the right to re-file previous versions of the claims, including original versions, in continuation, divisional and other related applications.

II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 52, 80 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,021,272 (*Cahill*) in view of United States Patent No. 2002/0162053 (*Os*).

Applicant has amended claims 1, 52 and 58 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Dependent claims 2, 6 and 80 and 58 ultimately depend from one of claims 1, 52 and 58. Because the rejected claims include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 52, 80 and 58 should be allowable.

As discussed above, the claims herein were amended solely to expedite prosecution for the present application. Applicant reserves the right to re-file previous versions of the claims, including original versions, in continuation, divisional and other related applications.

II. Conclusion

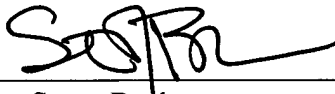
The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including today, March 6, 2006.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 6, 2006

By: 
Steve Bachmann
Reg. No. 50,806

VIERRA MAGEN MARCUS & DENIRO LLP
575 Market Street, Suite 2500
San Francisco, California 94105-2871
Telephone: (415) 369-9660
Facsimile: (415) 369-9665